

**LOWER SAUCON AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 21, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gress called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mr. Gress Chairman; Mr. Smith, Vice Chairman; Mr. Davis, Member; Mr. Thakkar, Member; Ms. Opthof-Cordaro, Council Liaison; Mr. Ross, Administrator; Ms. Fetzer, Assistant Administrator; Mrs. Kerchner, Secretary; Mr. Backenstoe, Attorney; Mr. Youst, Engineer; (Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Keich, Mr. Yanchuk and Mr. Reccek were not present).

3. Citizen Agenda Items

None.

4. Minutes

Motion by Mr. Gress, Second by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes dated April 16, 2024 as presented.

Roll Call 4-0 Motion Approved. (Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Keich and Mr. Yanchuk were not present).

5. Financial Report

Mr. Corcoran was not present to give his financial report.

6. Agenda

A. HBA Sewer Agreement Extension

Mr. Ross said Hellertown Borough Authority agreed to the terms of the agreement and has signed the agreement. Mr. Ross said the agreement terms are what the Authority had asked for. Mr. Ross noted that Mr. Gress and Mr. Keich attended the Hellertown Borough Authority meeting to express our thoughts regarding the agreement. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro asked for a quick review of the changes to the agreement and Mr. Gress and Mr. Ross went over the highlights of the changes to the agreement. Mr. Ross said on another note the

Authority water main that crosses Saucon Creek is installed and operating now and we are no longer using the Hellertown emergency interconnect for water.

The Board Members then made a motion to approve the agreement.

Motion by Mr. Gress, Second by Mr. Davis to approve the sixth amendment to the July 11, 2001 interim agreement for the conveyance of sanitary sewage with Hellertown Borough Authority.

Roll Call 4-0 Motion Approved. (Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Keich and Mr. Yanchuk were not present).

B. Generator and Pump House Building

Mr. Youst said the Board Members already approved to proceed with phase 2 with M&W Precast in the event the shop drawings for the generator and the generator building would be finalized. Mr. Youst said the shop drawings for the generator and the generator building are not finalized as of today. Mr. Youst said it was confirmed today by M&W Precast that there will be no price increase. M&W Precast is working now to address and finalize the generator shop drawings. Mr. Youst said he is hoping tomorrow to coordinate a meeting with Mr. Ross and Attorney Backenstoe to generate a letter authorizing the second phase which is the construction of the generator and the generator building. The second phase will allow the start of fabrication for the generator which is about a 56-week timeframe. This would mean the generator fabrication will be completed around June or July of 2025. The generator then must be installed in the generator building before it is delivered to the Authority site which would be around September of 2025. Then the construction contractor must get everything up and running which will be around December of 2025.

Mr. Gress asked if all the permits are in place. Mr. Youst said the Lower Saucon Township engineer gave Hanover Engineering comments regarding the drainage design review for the pump station site. Mr. Youst said his team is making the updates to the design based on the comments made regarding the original permit submittal. Mr. Youst said his plan is to put the construction bid out for the pump station this fall so we can award the bid before the holidays of 2024. The contractor must have the foundation put together on the site before we have the generator and building sent out to the site. December 31, 2025 is the timeframe for completion of the pump station site with a timeframe of about Memorial Day of 2026 for the removal of the interim pump station.

C. Creekside Update

Mr. Youst then reviewed the current progress of the project construction. He noted that the water main is installed and operational. He went over what is completed and how the

project is progressing. There was a delay with part of the project due to unforeseen circumstances, but the contractor is doing a great job staying close to the projected schedule and the project is moving along well. Mr. Youst said the contractor is about two weeks behind for the target completion at this point but that has also been due to the weather. In a meeting with the County and PennDOT and all who are involved with the bridge project everyone said they are fine with the construction timeline and the progress made by the Authority.

Mr. Youst said we are close to getting the permit from SEPTA.

Mr. Youst said he received the paperwork from Barrasso Excavation Inc. to begin the incremental payments for the work. Mr. Youst said the Authority has made the first payment this week.

7. Citizen Non-Agenda Items

None.

8. Reports

A. Attorney

Attorney Backenstoe had nothing to report. He said he is in communication with Mr. Youst and assisting him as needed.

B. Engineer

Mr. Youst said he is working with Attorney Backenstoe regarding the grant agreement. He said he asked Attorney Backenstoe to review the grant agreement to make sure the Authority follows the proper procedures. This grant will be used toward the cost for the Creekside pump station project.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro asked who is providing the grant. Mr. Youst said the agent for the grant is the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Mr. Ross said the grant is an ARPA grant.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro shared information regarding a presentation she went to regarding grants and federal funding that is available.

C. Administrator

Mr. Ross said he included in the board packet a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that shows the water quality for the year 2023. The CCR is sent out to all the

Authority water customers every June. Mr. Ross said we met all the standards and there were no violations. Mr. Youst noted that the PFAS regulatory limits will not be required to be included in the CCR report for about 2 or 3 more years.

Mr. Ross then went over the first quarter water usage with the Board Members. Mr. Ross said Mr. Reccek and his crew do an excellent job with leak detecting and maintaining the system.

D. Chairman

Mr. Gress had nothing to report.

E. Members

No Members had anything to report. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro the Council Liaison asked if the Authority would like the township to initiate an updated ACT 537 sewer plan. Mr. Youst then went over a review of ACT 537 and when it is necessary and when it is not. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro thanked Mr. Youst for his explanation.

9. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Gress, Second by Mr. Smith the May 21, 2024 Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Kerchner
Recording Secretary